

REMARKS

The above election along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated December 18, 2003 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 20031211), the period for response to which will expire on January 18, 2004.

Election / Restriction Requirement

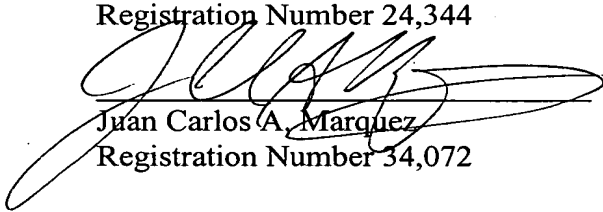
The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the substance of Claims 1 to 14 and 25 and 26 and to indicate the allowability of the claims.

Claims 1 to 14, 25 and 26, drawn to methods of nucleic acid amplification, have been elected in this application, while remaining claims 15 to 24 are withdrawn from further prosecution at this point, without prejudice and traverse. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected claims.

Substantive consideration of the elected claims is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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